

INDIANAPOLIS STAR  
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## Snitching On CIA

What some call snitching and some call ratting is making life tough for American spies in assignments that are dangerous enough without such treachery.

Too many American agents overseas have been assassinated. Marking them — disclosing their names — smacks of treason.

Anyone caught doing this kind of thing in a communist country would be punished with death.

In the United States a group is doing it and getting away with it.

An outfit that calls its periodical the Covert Action Information Bulletin published, on Wednesday, the names and some biographical details on what it described as 40 Central Intelligence Agency officers and agents operating in 31 countries.

The list purportedly named 13 chiefs of station, eight deputy chiefs and 19 senior "case officers," officers who supervise local agents. One of the deputy chiefs working in a foreign assignment was identified as a woman.

Among those named were CIA personnel said to be operating in such potentially dangerous posts as Algeria, Guatemala, Jerusalem, Libya and Zaire.

The periodical remarked that legislation is pending in Congress to make a criminal offense of the unauthorized identification of intelligence personnel.

It stated that it would continue to do so even if the practice were outlawed.

"We do not believe that it can be constitutionally suppressed by the government," it stated. "If any of the proposed laws designed to censor this column out of existence are passed we can assure our readers that we will fight them in the courts."

Perhaps in some courts this twisted and degraded conspiracy will find sympathy. Much of the United States anti-espionage apparatus was dismantled by ill-conceived and misguided court decisions during the late 1950s.

Considering the peril and difficulties faced constantly by many U.S. intelligence agents overseas, disclosing their identities and posts is comparable to giving an enemy defense and troop movement secrets in wartime. It is treacherous and potentially deadly. Those guilty of such misdeeds should be punished.

The authors of the bulletin state their object to be the destruction of American intelligence agencies. It is a purpose which coincides with those of the KGB, GRU and other hostile and dangerous espionage and assassination forces.

If those responsible for the bulletin meant to wage a campaign in behalf of the friends of freedom instead of the enemies of freedom, they would disclose the identities of totalitarian secret agents operating in the United States.